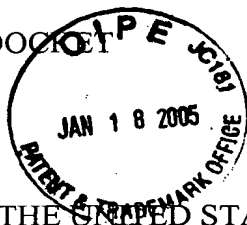


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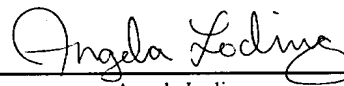
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ali U. Ahmed et al.  
Serial No.: 10/727,815  
Date Filed: December 4, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 2839  
Examiner: Hyeon, Hae M.  
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PREVENTING  
CONNECTOR DAMAGE

**MAIL STOP – AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV351284667US addressed to: Mail Stop – AF, Commissioner of Patents, Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 18, 2005.

  
Angela Loding

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments set forth below and request favorable action thereon.

**Amendments to Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.